

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-02

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DRAFTED BY M/MO/DE:RGMAYS,JR.

APPROVED BY M/MO/DE:RGMAYS,JR.

ARA/MGT - MR. ACKERMAN (SUBS)

EB/FPD - MR. SPILLMAN (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BR

SUBJECT: MODE - PROPOSAL TO EXPAND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL
SERVICE STAFF AT SAO PAULO

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) HAS FORWARDED TO US
EXCERPTS FROM ITS FY 77 BUDGET PROPOSAL WHICH INTER ALIA
CALLS FOR ASSIGNING A SECOND ASSISTANT ATTACHE TO THE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS) UNIT AT SAO PAULO.
APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE AUTHORIZED FAS
STAFF BRAZIL TO FIVE AMERICANS, FIVE FOREIGN NATIONALS,
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SAO PAULO 2 2

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITION, PREPARED BY
FAS, STATES QUOTE- OUR AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH BRAZIL HAS
INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY IN RECENT YEARS. U.S. AGRI-
BURAL EXPORTS WENT FROM 660 MILLION DOLS. IN 1972
CULTURAL EXPORTS WENT FROM 68 MILLION DOLS. IN CY 1972 TO

240 MILLION DOLS. IN 1974. OUR AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS
FROM BRAZIL SHOW A CORRESPONDING INCREASE FROM 660
MILLION DOLS. IN 1972 TO OVER 1 BILLION DOLS. IN 1974.
WE NEED TO ADD A SECOND ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
POSITION IN SAO PAULO SO THAT WE CAN STEP UP OUR
MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND INCREASE THE DEPTH
OF OUR AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE. THE RAPID GROWTH
IN BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO
U.S. INTERESTS. IN THE PAST THREE YEARS BRAZIL HAS
BECOME OUR MAJOR COMPETITION FOR SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN
PRODUCTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHILE MAINTAINING ITS
STRONG POSITION AS A MAJOR COFFEE, SUGAR AND COTTON
EXPORTER.

SAO PAULO IS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CENTER AND PORT.
THE VISITOR WORKLOAD IN SAO PAULO IS HEAVY. SATISFACTORY
SERVICING OF AMERICAN AGRIBUSINESS VISITORS CAN ONLY
BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL
AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL TO OUR STAFF AT THIS POST. END
QUOTE

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY
SEPTEMBER 10 POST COMMENTS ON FAS PROPOSAL. DEPARTMENT
PLANS TO SHARE ITS ASSESSMENT OF FAS FY 77 OVERSEAS
STAFFING PROPOSALS WITH BOTH USDA AND OMB THIS MONTH. ROBINSON

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